

The following Listing of Claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1. (Original) A torque converter to transmit torque by fluid, comprising:  
a front cover being configured to receive torque;  
an impeller forming a fluid chamber with said front cover and including an impeller shell and a plurality of impeller blades fixed to said impeller shell;  
a turbine being located facing said impeller within said fluid chamber, including a turbine shell and a plurality of turbine blades fixed to said turbine shell; and  
a stator being located between said impeller and said turbine to adjust the flow of the fluid from said turbine to said impeller,  
said impeller, said turbine, and said stator constituting a torus,  
flattening ( $L/D1$ ) being less than or equal to 0.18 in said torus, wherein D1 is an outer diameter and L is an axial direction length,  
a surface of said impeller shell on which said impeller blades are fixed having an impeller straight portion showing a straight line in a cross section,  
a surface of said turbine shell on which said turbine blades are fixed having a turbine straight portion showing a straight line in a cross section.

2. (Original) A torque converter according to claim 1, wherein  
said impeller straight portion is formed at a radially intermediate portion of said impeller shell, and

said turbine straight portion is formed at a radially intermediate portion of said turbine shell.

3. (Currently Amended) A torque converter according to claim ~~1~~ or 2, wherein said impeller straight portion and said turbine straight portion extend perpendicularly to a rotational axis of said torque converter.

4. (Currently Amended) A torque converter according to ~~any of claims 1 to~~ claim 3, wherein a ratio ( $St/L$ ) is in the range between 0.1 and 0.7, L being an axial direction length of said torus and St being a length of said turbine straight portion.

5. (Currently Amended) A torque converter according to ~~any of claims 1 to~~ claim 4, wherein a length  $Si$  of said impeller straight portion is more than or equivalent with  $[[a]]$  said length  $St$  of said turbine straight portion.

6. (Original) A torque converter according to claim 5, wherein said length  $Si$  of said impeller straight portion is longer than or equal to 1.15 times said length  $St$  of said turbine straight portion.

7. (New) A torque converter according to claim 2, wherein

a ratio ( $St/L$ ) is in the range between 0.1 and 0.7,  $L$  being an axial direction length of said torus and  $St$  being a length of said turbine straight portion.

8. (New) A torque converter according to claim 7, wherein  
a length  $Si$  of said impeller straight portion is more than or equivalent with said length  $St$  of said turbine straight portion.

9. (New) A torque converter according to claim 8, wherein  
said length  $Si$  of said impeller straight portion is longer than or equal to 1.15 times  
said length  $St$  of said turbine straight portion.

10. (New) A torque converter according to claim 1, wherein  
said impeller straight portion and said turbine straight portion extend perpendicularly  
to a rotational axis of said torque converter.

11. (New) A torque converter according to claim 10, wherein  
a ratio ( $St/L$ ) is in the range between 0.1 and 0.7,  $L$  being an axial direction length of  
said torus and  $St$  being a length of said turbine straight portion.

12. (New) A torque converter according to claim 11, wherein  
a length  $Si$  of said impeller straight portion is more than or equivalent with said length  
 $St$  of said turbine straight portion.

13. (New) A torque converter according to claim 12, wherein  
said length  $S_i$  of said impeller straight portion is longer than or equal to 1.15 times  
said length  $S_t$  of said turbine straight portion.

14. (New) A torque converter according to claim 10, wherein  
a length  $S_i$  of said impeller straight portion is more than or equivalent with a length  $S_t$   
of said turbine straight portion.

15. (New) A torque converter according to claim 14, wherein  
said length  $S_i$  of said impeller straight portion is longer than or equal to 1.15 times  
said length  $S_t$  of said turbine straight portion.

16. (New) A torque converter according to claim 1, wherein  
a ratio ( $S_t/L$ ) is in the range between 0.1 and 0.7,  $L$  being an axial direction length of  
said torus and  $S_t$  being a length of said turbine straight portion.

17. (New) A torque converter according to claim 16, wherein  
a length  $S_i$  of said impeller straight portion is more than or equivalent with said length  
 $S_t$  of said turbine straight portion.

18. (New) A torque converter according to claim 17, wherein  
said length  $S_i$  of said impeller straight portion is longer than or equal to 1.15 times  
said length  $S_t$  of said turbine straight portion.

19. (New) A torque converter according to claim 1, wherein  
a length  $S_i$  of said impeller straight portion is more than or equivalent with a length  $S_t$   
of said turbine straight portion.

20. (New) A torque converter according to claim 17, wherein  
said length  $S_i$  of said impeller straight portion is longer than or equal to 1.15 times  
said length  $S_t$  of said turbine straight portion.